

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A nonwoven barrier fabric, comprising;
  - a. a frangible fibrous layer comprising a first fibrous component,
  - 5 b. a substrate layer comprising a second fibrous component and/or unit-area film component,
  - c. wherein said first fibrous component of the frangible fibrous layer exhibits an elastic modulus at least 20% less than that of the second fibrous component and/or unit area component of the
  - 10 substrate layer,
  - d. said frangible fibrous layer being deposited upon said substrate layer and subjected to external energy such that the first fibrous component fragments into multiple sub-fibers, and
  - e. said sub-fibers being integrated into the substrate layer.
- 15 2. A nonwoven barrier fabric, comprising;
  - a. a frangible fibrous layer comprising a first fibrous component,
  - b. said first fibrous component having a denier of equal to or less than 500 nanometers,
  - 20 c. a substrate layer comprising a second fibrous component,
  - d. said second fibrous component comprising finite staple length fibers,
  - e. wherein said first fibrous component of the frangible fibrous layer exhibits an elastic modulus at least 20% less than that of
  - 25 the second fibrous component and/or unit area component of the substrate layer,
  - f. said frangible fibrous layer being deposited upon said substrate layer and subjected to hydraulic energy such that the first fibrous component fragments into multiple sub-fibers, said sub-fibers
  - 30 having a denier the same as that of the first fibrous component, and

g. said sub-fibers being hydroentangled into the substrate layer.

3. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in Claim 2, wherein said nonwoven fabric is a component in a medical barrier article.

5 4. A medical barrier article as in Claim 3, wherein said article is a medical gown.

5. A medical barrier article as in Claim 3, wherein said article is a medical drape.

10 6. A medical barrier article as in Claim 3, wherein said article is a central supply wrap.

7. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in Claim 2, wherein said nonwoven fabric is a component in a hygiene article.

8. A hygiene article as in Claim 7, wherein said article is a diaper.

15 9. A hygiene article as in Claim 7, wherein said article is a feminine hygiene pad.